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I vote to add Juneteenth as a national holiday that is observed by the courts and with no other changes to the current national holiday schedule.

However, if changes must be made, then I am not opposed to removing an "eve" holiday such as New Year's Eve or Christmas Eve or even a day after a holiday such as the day after Thanksgiving. Those days hold no significant historical meaning other than a day for traveling or extra time with family. Now, while those things are indeed important and are wanted or even needed for many, they should not have more significance than the observance of a day that American citizens were emancipated from slavery if such a choice needed to be made. If there is a concern of staffing stress by adding one more observed holiday off, then the appropriate course of action should be to eliminate a "traveling" day off instead of denying a national holiday off to one of the greatest events in this country's history.

Furthermore, I do not agree that Juneteenth should be observed as only a pause instead of a national holiday off.

Our nation has long recognized the need to give pause as a unifying act of remembrance to important events while also observing that day off as a way for citizens to celebrate those events that have impacted this great country. Such recognized moments, like veterans and memorial days, are recognized with both a pause and as an observed holiday off in remembrance and celebration of those days. The practice of both giving a pause and recognition as a national holiday honors both those who are to be remembered but also those who are still here and were impacted by those events. It is also a symbol of the significance that our nation places on these events. Juneteenth, nicknamed "Freedom Day," the day observed for celebrating the emancipation of slavery in this country, finally and formally recognized nationally as a day of significance, should be treated with the same weight as other great historical events of this country; it is a celebration of freedom, no different than the celebration of freedom on July 4th, and should be treated as such.

-Charlissee Smith